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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### **dissolution of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) successor organisation: Communist Party in Ireland**

This is my final letter to the contact list assembled for purposes of inviting everyone involved with the birth and development of the work of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) to reunions with Comrade Hardial Bains, founder of the Internationalists.

Enclosed please find the decision of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) to dissolve itself, taken at a meeting at our premises in Dublin on Sunday, 16 March 2003. This announces that those comrades wishing to continue work as communists are organising from now in the Communist Party. The document is self-explanatory.

The archives of CPIML, stretching back to the Irish Internationalists, devolve to the successor organisation. Originals of all archives from the time of the Internationalists, were taken back to Canada under the supervision of Hardial Bains in the late 1980s. It is our intention, in due course, to make an analysis summing up the achievement of the line of the Marxist-Leninist party inspired and initiated by Comrade Hardial Bains in Ireland.

In the new historical circumstances, where we can draw a line under the era of the Marxist-Leninist party built on the lines of Lenin's 'party of the new type', the Bolshevik party, such a summation would be a broad treatment, without much mention of individuals, especially the various internal party struggles that have taken place. Individual comrades and some groups of comrades have, from time to time, come to disagreement with each other and parted company, going separate ways. But we should like to emphasise now, that all of them, everyone without exception who has taken up this line and worked with us for any period over the years has contributed to an important and progressive endeavour for the benefit of the working class and the Irish people. We should all feel proud of this achievement which, in its own way, has been a significant factor, certainly in the initiation of the rise of the demand for democratic and civil rights in the North in 1969, but also over the years in the 1970s and '80s for the raising of the political level in the progressive movement in the country and internationally in general.

With the death of Hardial Bains in 1997, things have changed. No one in the group remaining interested in being active as communists derives from the time of the Internationalists, though some, including myself, have worked with him in later years. Therefore we have no more role in organising reunions. We are moving forward in new historical conditions, still with the same goal of achieving socialism and communism, but in different ways and through new organisational forms.

If anyone wishes to keep in touch with developments in our work, they are welcome to write to AIPS's post office box, fax or e-mail me at the above address. However, clearly, if you are interested, you should not delay contacting us for too long.

Since our work of historical assessment of CPIML is in order to advance our work in the future, it is not our intention to circularise this to the old list. Anyone interested in that needs to apply to keep in touch with the new organisation.

Anyone interested in keeping in touch with our sister parties, Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), or Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), can consult their web sites, respectively: [www.cpcml.ca](http://www.cpcml.ca); and [www.rcpbml.org.uk](http://www.rcpbml.org.uk).

Greetings and farewell ! It has been good to know and work with you,

Rod Eley

**Proposal of Rod Eley, General Secretary, to a meeting in Dublin of members of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist), adopted unanimously on Sunday 16 March 2003:**

**To dissolve CPIML in order to offer a new life as communists with an organisation appropriate to our times for those comrades who should wish to continue, by reinvoking their right to membership of the Communist Party, with its historical continuity through all changes of party form since the 1848 Manifesto to the present, and encompassing the communists of all countries, regardless of parties organised on national or multi-national state geographical basis.**

**Brief elaboration of proposal:**

That members of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) revoke their existing nation-based organisation, founded on the organisational principle of democratic centralism of the Leninist Bolshevik Party of the new type, in order that those who wish to continue working as communists can reinvolve their general membership of the Communist Party, namely the historic organisation of the working class of all countries, with those resident in Ireland becoming known henceforth as members of the Communist Party in Ireland, while those who live elsewhere are members in their countries.

**The Communist Party:**

The Communist Party is today, as it has always been since 1848 and the publication of the Manifesto of the Communist Party by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the underlying association of all communists in the world, i.e., encompassing all communists, regardless of the fact that they may also be organised in their nation or state-based political parties.

This party has endured through all ups and downs and splits and regroupings of the movement as the world association of communists throughout the different historical periods, where communists have formed specific national and multi-national state-based political parties in the specific historical circumstances and to meet the specific needs of the times.

Thus while we have been members of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) since its formation in 1970 from the preparatory work of the Irish Internationalists from 1965, we have always been conscious of being also members of the one Communist Party on the world scale along with all our comrades in our sister parties and wider afield.

**Membership and aims:**

Membership of the Communist Party, like all other historical forms of communist party organisation, is voluntary. But, in contrast to them, membership is based purely on informal acceptance of the individual by their fellow communists through recognition of their own endeavours to serve the interests of the working class and the people as social scientists, that is theorists and practitioners of revolutionary social change and political emancipation.

Although individuals without this qualification of respect of their peers might claim to be communists and thereby claim to be members of the Communist Party, as with any scientific association, we are not talking about open-house on the basis of some desire to join a club, but self-selection on the basis of the scientific standards of the day in the given historical epoch, which themselves are based on the verdict of history on the efforts of our communist forbears at different periods in the past.

At different periods, communists have organised in different forms of organisation to meet the different and consciously-recognised transient or transitory, varied needs of their times.

The first wave of widespread, nationally organised parties, following the historic world-wide impact of the International Workingmen's Association, were termed social democratic parties, prevailing over the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century up to the outbreak of the First World War.

With the decision of the social democratic parties to renege on their own commitment to oppose imperialist war in the Second International and, instead, to go over to the side of imperialism as the recruiting sergeant for the bourgeoisie in their respective power blocs, the communists reorganised themselves on the model of Lenin's Bolshevik Party, which almost alone of the parties of the Second International had remained loyal to the general pledge to oppose imperialist war.

Today, that model for the whole international movement of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party in each country, which became the universal feature of the first wave of socialist revolution, no longer retains that universal relevance. In order to go forward in the new conditions, in the aftermath of the final collapse of the socialist camp achieved by the first wave of socialist revolution around the early 1990s - without denying the continued existence of some remaining socialist states - the members of some national parties, such as the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist), seek a new flexibility in their organisation to help prepare conditions for the next wave of social change. But they do not forget that they are going forward from their

experience in the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party and with a view to building on past achievements, far from repudiating their past.

The communists do not constitute some sect in the service of any narrow dogma. As social scientists their agenda is open-ended and not hidebound by past precedent. But it is self-disciplined by the rigour of objectivity and practise, as opposed to the anarchy of wish-fulfilment and speculation.

The Communist Party is not a text-based faith, but an association based on living science. However, it does affirm the fundamental principles of the approach of dialectical and historical materialism at each period in the historic works of the classics of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, obviously with its historic foundation as elaborated in the Manifesto of the Communist Party of 1848, as well as articulated by other significant leaders since the original four classic leaders and teachers, such as Enver Hoxha, up to and including the writings of Hardial Bains from the foundation of our own work as communists in the Internationalists in the 1960s up to his death in 1997.

The Communist Party as the organisation of the working class of all countries, as has always been the case, has no need to issue membership cards, needs keep no membership list, does not require payment of dues nor membership of any specific party organisation by the individual member and does not recognise admission to membership on any mass basis, for instance by virtue of belonging to any other related or like-minded organisation. It does not set up or recognise any disciplinary body for purposes of arbitrating on any disputes, but relies on the self-discipline of freethinking but responsible social scientists working together on the collective principle, each and all committed to the best interests of the working class of all countries, exercising criticism and self-criticism on the basis of the universal test of the unity of theory and practise.

Members of the Communist Party in each country respect the rights of communists to organise in parties to advance the cause of the working class and the democratic interests of the people and their nation in whatever way they see fit. As the Communist Party they are mindful of their own responsibility towards the long-term interests of the working class movement and the other fundamental responsibilities of communism.

#### **QUESTION FOR DECISION:**

Immediate dissolution of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) as of Sunday, 16 March 2003, bringing an end to the organisation founded on 4 July 1970, in order to allow those remaining members, who so wish, to continue their free association as fellow communists in the Communist Party as the general organisation of the working class of all countries, with those resident in Ireland being known as members of the Communist Party in Ireland.

Postponement of circulation of this decision to former members and supporters of CPIML and its forerunner organisations, including the Irish Internationalists, as well as the sister Parties descended from the Internationalists in other countries, until after the Fourth Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) is concluded on Sunday, 30 March 2003, in the interests of not causing any disruption to the proceedings of our sister parties, with whom we desire to remain on friendly and cooperative terms.

#### **Concluding note:**

While there is nothing in this decision to restrict the freedom of initiative of members of the Communist party to participate in any organisation or party, or organise such, as they think appropriate to advance the common interests of the working class of all countries, as has been mentioned previously, it must be clearly understood that the membership of those bodies they organise do not have any automatic right to themselves claim membership of the Communist Party.

It should also be understood that there is no notion or intention contained in this simple and abbreviated restatement of the principles of the Communist Party of trying to bind communists in the future against taking any decisions as they find appropriate to reorganise themselves to meet the conditions of their own day.